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Senate

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m., on the expiration of the recess, and was called to order by the President pro tempore [Mr. THURMOND].

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Today's prayer will be offered by our guest Chaplain, Dr. Wendell Estep, from Columbia, SC.

We are pleased to have you with us.

PRAYER

The guest Chaplain, Dr. Wendell R. Estep, First Baptist Church, Columbia, SC, offered the following prayer:

Gracious Father and God, we bow before You with grateful hearts. As King David prayed, "Who am I, O Lord God, and what is my house, that Thou hast brought me this far?" The positions of influence and service that we enjoy have come as a trust from Your hand and we acknowledge our ultimate responsibility to You.

Father, as I bring this body of men and women before You, I make two requests: that You give them wisdom and that You give them courage to act on that divine wisdom.

Gracious Savior, we desire Your blessings on America, but Your word declares our responsibility: "If My people who are called by My name humble themselves and pray, and seek My face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, will forgive their sin, and will heal their land."

Bless these Senators as they provide godly leadership. I pray in the name of Jesus, my Lord. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable SLADE GORTON, a Senator from the State of Washington, led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

Mr. LOTT. I thank the Chair.

I yield for some comments with regard to our visiting Chaplain to Senator NICKLES.

Mr. NICKLES addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Senator NICKLES is recognized.

GUEST CHAPLAIN ESTEP

Mr. NICKLES. Mr. President, I wish to join with you in welcoming our guest Chaplain of the day, Wendell Estep.

The President pro tempore introduced Pastor Estep as being from South Carolina. However, we still consider him a native of Oklahoma. Pastor Estep was one of the leading pastors in my State. He led one of the largest churches in the State, Council Roads Baptist Church. Before that, he was at the First Baptist Church in Pawhuska, OK, which is pretty close to my home town of Ponca City. He is really one of the most respected leaders we have had in our state, and we still consider him an Oklahoman. We are delighted to have him as guest Chaplain and very much appreciate his opening our day with a beautiful prayer this morning.

I thank Pastor Estep for joining us.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I, too, thank our guest Chaplain for being with us today. I know most Senators have been informed that our Chaplain, Lloyd John Ogilvie, is doing quite well in his recovery period, and we look forward to having him back in the Senate to hear his melodious voice and beautiful prayers. In the meantime, we are glad to have our guest Chaplain this morning.

SCHEDULE

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, this morning it is hoped that the Senate will be

able to resume consideration of the Interior appropriations bill. The oil royalties amendment is the only remaining issue to dispose of prior to completing action on the bill. However, in order to resume consideration of the oil royalties issue, it may be necessary to have several procedural votes this morning; therefore, Senators should anticipate votes beginning shortly. The Senate will also resume consideration of the VA-HUD appropriations bill with the hope of finishing that legislation today. Also, either later on today or tomorrow, it is hoped we can take up one, two, or more appropriations conference reports as they are completed.

THE JOURNAL

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Journal of proceedings be approved to date.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. GORTON). Without objection, it is so ordered.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2000

Mr. LOTT. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now resume consideration of H.R. 2466, the Interior appropriations bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 2466) making appropriations for the Department of the Interior and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2000, and for other purposes.

Pending:

Hutchison Amendment No. 1603, to prohibit the use of funds for the purpose of issuing a notice of rulemaking with respect to the valuation of crude oil for royalty purposes until September 30, 2000.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I now move to proceed to the motion to reconsider

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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